

REFERENCE TITLE: urge enactment; department of peace

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
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Introduced by
Representatives Lujan, Anderson, Garcia M, Sinema: Ableser, Campbell CL,
Farley, Gallardo, Lopes, Prezelski, Schapira

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ESTABLISH A UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, during the 110th Congress, legislation to establish a United
4 States Department of Peace and Nonviolence was reintroduced in the United
5 States House of Representatives as H.R. 808, where it had the sponsorship of
6 68 members; and

7 Whereas, the proposed legislation will establish a cabinet-level
8 Department of Peace and Nonviolence, whose primary function will be to
9 research, educate and facilitate nonviolent conflict resolution solutions
10 that are both domestic and international in scope; and

11 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation will benefit the State of
12 Arizona by identifying best practices among existing programs throughout the
13 United States and developing new programs addressing preventative measures
14 and treatment of root causes as well as symptomatic problems that relate to
15 the societal challenges of domestic violence, school violence, violent crime,
16 racial or ethnic violence and recidivism; and

17 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation will benefit the State of
18 Arizona by developing curricula that teach violence prevention, conflict
19 resolution and mediation to Arizona's schoolchildren; and

20 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation will further benefit the
21 State of Arizona by encouraging development and coordination of initiatives
22 from the community, its religious groups and its nongovernmental
23 organizations, which will promote more effective community involvement,
24 thereby creating stronger civil society and civic engagement to reduce
25 community violence in Arizona; and

26 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation may benefit the State of
27 Arizona by increasing the ability of the United States to employ nonviolent
28 conflict resolution and other nonviolence strategies as an element of
29 national power, which will reduce the number of conflicts that escalate to
30 armed military conflict; and

31 Whereas, the proposed department will be a streamlined department
32 through the acquisition of the functions, assets and personnel of the Peace
33 Corps, the United States Institute of Peace, the Office of the Undersecretary
34 for Arms Control and International Security Affairs of the Department of
35 State, the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program of the Bureau of
36 Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the SafeFutures Program of the Office of
37 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice; and

38 Whereas, the proposed federal legislation may benefit the State of
39 Arizona by eventually reducing spending on armed military conflict, thereby
40 redirecting monies to the states and cities.

41 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
42 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

43 1. That the United States Congress enact legislation establishing the
44 Department of Peace and Nonviolence to aid our communities in reducing
45 violence.

1 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
2 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
3 the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from
4 the State of Arizona.